

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A gas generator comprising a cylindrical housing, wherein a gas generating agent for generating a high-temperature gas when it burns is loaded in a combustion chamber in said housing, one or more squibs for firing and burning said gas generating agent are loaded in said housing, one or more of said respective squibs are disposed eccentrically to ~~an~~ a center axis of said housing, and the one or more squibs are covered with firing lids having firing holes each being provided in a direction that does not extend through the center axis of the housing whereby flames of said eccentric squibs are controlled to spout around ~~said the center~~ the center axis of said housing.

8. (Currently Amended) A gas generator comprising a short cylindrical housing, wherein an airtight space in said housing is partitioned into a plurality of combustion chambers, a gas generating agent for generating a high-temperature gas when it burns is loaded in each of said combustion chambers, a plurality of squibs for individually firing and burning said gas generating agents in said respective combustion chambers are mounted in said housing, one or more of said respective squibs are disposed eccentrically to ~~an~~ a center axis of said housing, and firing flames of said respective eccentric squibs are controlled to spout around ~~said the center~~ the center axis of said housing, wherein said eccentric squibs are covered with cup-shaped firing lids having a plurality of firing holes for allowing their firing flames to spout into said respective combustion chambers and said respective firing holes are formed to spout said firing flames around said center axis of said housing, wherein the plurality of

squibs are covered with firing lids having firing holes each being provided in a direction that does not extend through the center axis of the housing.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A gas generator according to claim 8, wherein said eccentric squibs have a cup-shaped firing lid formed with a plurality of firing holes caused to open into said respective combustion chambers by said firing flames of said squibs and said respective firing holes are formed to spout said firing flames around ~~said~~ the center axis of said housing.

12.-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A gas generator according to claim 8, wherein the plurality of combustion chambers include an upper chamber and a lower chamber, the upper chamber and the lower chamber having generally coextensive outer boundaries, at least one squib being provided in the upper chamber and at least one squib being provided in the lower chamber.

16. (New) A gas generator according to claim 8, wherein all of said respective firing holes are formed to spout said firing flames around said center axis of said housing.

17. (New) A gas generator according to claim 7, wherein all of said eccentric squibs are covered with said firing lids.

18. (New) A gas generator according to claim 8, wherein all of said eccentric squibs are covered with said cup-shaped firing lids.

19. (New) A gas generator comprising a short cylindrical housing, wherein an

airtight space in said housing is partitioned into a plurality of combustion chambers, a gas generating agent for generating a high-temperature gas when it burns is loaded in each of said combustion chambers, a plurality of squibs for individually firing and burning said gas generating agents in said respective combustion chambers are mounted in said housing, one or more of said respective squibs are disposed eccentrically to an axis of said housing, and firing flames of said respective eccentric squibs are controlled to spout around said axis of said housing, wherein said eccentric squibs are covered with cup-shaped firing lids having a plurality of firing holes for allowing their firing flames to spout into said respective combustion chambers and said respective firing holes are formed to spout said firing flames around said axis of said housing, wherein the plurality of combustion chambers include an upper chamber and a lower chamber, the upper chamber and the lower chamber having generally coextensive outer boundaries, at least one squib being provided in the upper chamber and at least one squib being provided in the lower chamber.

20. (New) A gas generator comprising a cylindrical housing, wherein a gas generating agent for generating a high-temperature gas when it burns is loaded in each of a plurality of combustion chambers in said housing, a plurality of squibs for firing and burning said gas generating agent are loaded in said housing, one or more of said respective squibs are disposed eccentrically to an axis of said housing, and the one or more squibs are covered with firing lids having firing holes each being provided in a direction that does not extend through the axis of the housing whereby flames of said eccentric squibs are controlled to spout around said axis of said housing, wherein the plurality of combustion chambers include an upper chamber and a lower chamber, the upper chamber and the lower chamber having

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generally coextensive outer boundaries, at least one squib being provided in the upper chamber and at least one squib being provided in the lower chamber.